

CHAPTER NO. 469

SENATE BILL NO. 1804

By Herron, Burchett, Crowe, Kurita

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1844

By Odom, Sontany, Armstrong, Sherry Jones, Moore, Mike Turner, DuBois, Crider, Marrero

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 23, relative to social workers and consumer protection.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 23, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

63-23-111.

(a) A social worker is an individual who has:

(1) Received a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an accredited social work program approved by the council on social work education;

(2) Received a doctorate or Ph.D. in social work; or

(3) A current certified master social worker certificate or independent practitioner of social work license as set forth in § 63-23-102 and § 63-23-103.

(b) No person shall hold out to be a social worker unless such person has:

(1) Received a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an accredited social work school or program;

(2) Received a doctorate or Ph.D. in social work; or

(3) A current certified master social worker certificate or independent practitioner of social work license as set forth in § 63-23-102 and § 63-23-103.

(c) No government entities, public or private agencies, business or organizations in the state shall use the title social worker or any form of the title for volunteer or employment positions or within contracts for services, documents, manuals, or reference material effective July 1, 2005, unless the volunteers or employees in those positions meet the criteria set forth in this section.

(d) Any individual meeting the qualifications provided for in 42 C.F.R. § 483 of the code of federal regulations may practice as a "qualified social worker" as defined in those regulations in any nursing home licensed in the state, and shall not be required to meet the requirements of subsections (a)-(c). Any such individual may not use the title "social worker" except in connection with the activities of the nursing home.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 26, 2005


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18th day of June 2005


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR